

References

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Supplementary Note on the "Gryphaea" problem

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(Letter dated 11th October 1951)

As an addendum to the enclosed statement which I have signed I should like to point out that *Gryphaea* has long been used by practically all paleontologists for a fossil genus of oyster which became extinct several million years ago. *Gryphaea arcuata* was the type species of the genus as set up by Anton (1839). The supposed validation of *Gryphaea angulata* as the type species of the living genus by Children cannot be valid because it was a *nomen nudum* of Lamarck, 1801. If Doctor Ranson's argument is that *G. arcuata* was confused and could not have been properly designated by Anton, it does nothing to validate *angulata*, an indubitable *nomen nudum*, and if *arcuata* is thrown out as the type species, it leaves the whole situation in utter and complete confusion.

Concerning the matter of usage, it is only in recent years that ostreologists have come to separate the two common living genera of oysters. Taxonomists in this country and Japan who have been concerned with the question have all recognised that *Gryphaea* is not the proper name and have all stated that *Crassostrea* is the proper generic or subgeneric designation.

SUPPORT FOR M. GILBERT RANSON'S PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAME "GRYPHAEA" LAMARCK, 1819 (CLASS PELECYPODA)

By G. LECOINTRE

(Rabat, Maroc)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)365)

(Letter dated 17th October 1951)

Je tiens à vous dire que je suis entièrement d'accord avec M. Gilbert Ranson du Muséum de Paris sur le point suivant :

Le genre *Gryphaea* Lamarck, 1819, a comme génotype : *Ostrea angulata*.

Je suis tout à fait d'accord également pour que le "Système" de Lamarck de 1801 ne soit plus utilisé pour la sélection du genre.